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SOIL BANK TREE PLANTING PROCEDURE FOR NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS //

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Most of the Soil Bank Conservation Reserve contracts completed through January, 1957, in North Carolina have been for tree planting.

Under this program, North Carolina farmers who place eligible land in tree cover will receive payment of \$12 an acre to help cover the cost of tree seedlings and planting. In addition to this "establishment payment" they will get a rental payment of \$10 per acre per year during the contract period.

Tree planting contracts normally are written for 10 years. However, if you sign up and cannot get seedlings, your contract may be extended each year until seedlings are available up to a maximum of five one-year extensions. During these extension periods, you may be required to put a cover crop on the land and will receive help which will take care of approximately 80% of the cost of establishing the cover crop. However, you must put the land in trees as soon as they become available.

The following is a list of trees eligible for Conservation Reserve contract plantings in North Carolina and spacings recommended. Some of the kinds listed are suitable for Christmas trees, but remember that you are not allowed to harvest Christmas trees during the contract period.

Spacings recommended below will during an average year result in an average of 500 or more live trees per acre at the end of the first growing season. Five hundred is the minimum needed to qualify your planting as successful under North Carolina Soil Bank requirements. You can plant to closer spacings if you like, or you can vary a spacing such as substituting 6' x 10' for 8' x 8' as long as you meet the minimum survival requirement.

Coastal Plain: Loblolly pine, slash pine - 8' x 8' - 680 per acre. Longleaf pine, red cedar - 6' x 6' - 1200 trees per acre.

Piedmont: Loblolly pine, white pine - 8' x 8' - 680 trees per acre. Shortleaf pine - 6' x 6' - 1000 trees per acre. Red cedar, except in or near commercial apple orchards - 6' x 6' - 1200 trees per acre.

Mountians: White pine, shortleaf pine - 8' x 8' - 680 trees per acre. Loblolly pine in Clay or Cherokee Counties at lower elevations - 8' x 8' - 680 trees per acre. Black locust, yellow poplar - 6' x 7' - 1000 trees per acre. Fraser fir - 6' x 6' - 1200 trees per acre.

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How to qualify for and receive Conservation Reserve contract payments in North Carolina (March 15, is the deadline for signing 1957 contracts):

1. Contact your county A. S. C. office to work out your Soil Bank base. Designate fields to be planted. Sign contract.
2. A county A. S. C. committee representative will then visit your farm to check and see whether the fields you have listed are eligible.
3. Next, the county A. S. C. committee approves your contract. They will mail to you a notice that the practice and acreage have been approved.
4. Get a seedling order blank from your county agent or county forest ranger during mid-summer (after July 1) or early fall, if possible. Fill it out and mail it in as directed on the order blank.
5. Plant your trees. Planting season opens in late November and closes in March or April, depending on where you are located. For advice or assistance see your county agent or local forester.
6. When you have finished planting, notify your county A. S. C. office. They will then send a forester to see if your performance meets the requirements. If it does, they will mail you a sight draft in the amount of \$12.00 per acre to help cover your cost of establishment.
7. At the end of the first growing season, your county A. S. C. office will send a forester to see how many live trees you have per acre. If you have 500 or more per acre and have not otherwise violated your contract, you will then receive your yearly rental payment of \$10 per acre. You will continue to receive this payment each fall for the life of the contract.
8. If at the end of the first growing season through no fault of your own you have less than 500 live trees per acre, you will be required to replant missing spots. If you agree to do so, you will receive your rental check plus some financial help to help cover cost of replanting.



